

HOUSE BILL 123

By Terry

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1315 and Title 68, Chapter 102, relative to fire investigators.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-102-127, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) Salaried county fire investigators who have been authorized by the chief of the county-wide fire department or the director of fire services to conduct investigations relative to the cause and origin of fires or arson investigations have police powers and have the right to make arrests when necessary to preserve the laws of this state or their respective jurisdiction relative to cases of arson or suspected arson.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-102-149, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) It is lawful for salaried county fire investigators who have been authorized by the chief of the county-wide fire department or the director of fire services to conduct investigations relative to the cause and origin of fires or arson investigations to carry a pistol or side arm while on active duty in order to protect their own lives and to effectuate the purposes of their responsibilities in investigating cases of arson or suspected arson. For the sole purpose of being able to carry a pistol, such investigators shall comply with the requirements of § 39-17-1315(a).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.